



## MONTHLY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Hampton History Museum  
120 Old Hampton Lane, Hampton, Virginia 23669  
April 9, 2013  
5:00 PM - 6:15 PM

Committee Members Present: Wayne Cox, Pete Fairchild, John Gately, Ed Hicks, Suzanne Higgs, Libby Kendrick, Arnold Lorea, Jill Lynch, Gineff McKinney, Peggy Mertz, Michelle Pauley, Burnie Peters, John Pritchard, Hal Roesch, Bill Tucker, and Chuck Valliant

City Representatives Present: Ann Bane and Jim Wilson

Visitors: Jim Coty, PAO Hampton VA Medical Center, Rochelle Crockett, Fort Eustis Survivor Office, and Michele Woods Jones, Citizens Unity Committee

Guest Speakers: Matthew Hartman, Director, Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia, and Elaine J Van Pelt, Casualty and Survivor Benefits, 633 FSS/FSFR, Air Combat Command, JBLE

---

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Roll Call and Secretary's Report
- III. Review and Approval of March 12th Minutes. Wayne Cox made a motion to approve the March 12th minutes. Peggy Mertz seconded. Motion passed without dissent.
- IV. Guest Speakers:
  - A. Matthew Hartman, Director, Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia.
    1. Mr. Hartman shared a video with MAC committee members on the Honor Flight Network.
    2. The purpose of the Honor Flight Network is to make sure every WWII veteran has an opportunity to visit the mall in Washington DC to view the WWII National Memorial, as well as other war memorials such as Arlington National Cemetery, the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, the

## Hampton Military Affairs Committee

USAF Memorial, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Recently, the Honor Flight Network has expanded their mission to include Korean and Vietnam veterans.

3. The Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia, which is based in Williamsburg, VA, schedules two trips a year to Washington DC. All veterans on the trip are accompanied by a trained volunteer "guardian," who assists the veteran for the entire day and there is no charge to the veterans. Police and veteran motorcycle rider groups often support the event by escorting the buses as they travel to DC. The next trip is scheduled for June 8, 2013.
  4. The objective of Mr. Hartman's visit was to introduce his organization to the MAC, request our participation in the event (as cheering supporters), communicate with local veterans who might wish to take the trip, and to encourage donations to his organization. Although there was much interest in training to be a guardian, Mr. Hartman indicated that they already have approximately 140 volunteers for 90 slots.
- B. Elaine J Van Pelt, Casualty and Survivor Benefits, 633 FSS/FSFR, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base.
1. Ms. Van Pelt gave a presentation on the casualty and survivor benefits offered by her office for active duty and retired service members and their families.
  2. Highlights of the presentation included the services her organization provides to the families of deceased service members -- active duty and retired -- and the unique portfolio her organization creates for all USAF service members upon their retirement. To reach a Survivor Benefits & Casualty Counselor, call 757.764.5231.

### V. Chairman's Remarks.

#### A. MAC Planning Sessions.

1. John Gately, Hal Roasch, Tony Soltys, Pat Garvey, Arnold Lorea, Peggy Mertz, Pete Fairchild, Michelle Pauley, Bruce Sturk and John Gately participated in the April 4th planning session that preceded this MAC meeting.
  2. The next planning session is at 11 AM, Thursday, May 9th, in an 8th floor conference room of City Hall. Committee members are encouraged to participate.
  3. Monthly Meeting Location. While we explored the option of moving the meetings to the Community Development Conference Room, on the fifth floor of City Hall, for the time being we will continue to use the Ruppert Sargent Building Veteran's Conference Room. Peggy Mertz has suggested that we establish a rotating hospitality committee that will be responsible for setting up the room an hour before the meeting. She will take the lead in coordinating this effort.
- B. Subcommittee Meetings. We need a commitment to get the business -- much of the detail work of the MAC -- done at the subcommittee level. This has been an item of discussion for a long while. We need traction in this vital area.

## Hampton Military Affairs Committee

1. At his request, Ed Hicks has been released from his role as the chair of the Communications Subcommittee. The chairman thanked him for his outstanding service and congratulated him for doing an excellent job. He also thanked Arnold Lorea for his service on this committee.
  2. The chairman then thanked Michelle Pauley and Suzanne Higgs for volunteering to serve as the new co-leads of the Communications Subcommittee.
- C. The "Transition on the Go" event held at the Workforce Development Conference Center on March 6th, and co-sponsored by the MAC, the VPCC, the Freedom Support Center and the new TEAM (Transition and Employment Assistance to the Military) coalition proved an overwhelming success, and follow-on is warranted if the MAC desires to continue aiding those in transition.
1. Follow-on "Transitions-on-the-Go." The TEAM is considering future iterations which could prove either half-day or full-day events. It is anticipated that there will be two more events in the next twelve months, one in October 2013 and one in March 2014.
  2. At the last planning meeting, some asked whether the TEAM session might duplicate services currently provided by TAPS, the Transition Assistance Program mandated by Congress and provided by all services. The chairman noted that that the TEAM was initiated after integration of TAPS representatives to ensure that it was not duplicative.
    - a. While Bruce Sturk indicated that the TEAM events provided networking opportunities, he suggested we define the MAC's role in future TEAM meetings, asking whether it should be as far reaching as it was for the last one.
    - b. Location of the TEAM sessions, frequency of MAC support to the effort, subjects covered, could all warrant further review.
  3. The chairman and Chuck Valliant attended the "Transition on the Go" After Action Report which was conducted from 1 -3 PM on Tuesday, April 9th at the Workforce Development Center.
    - a. The consensus of the group was that the event was an overwhelming success and that it provided a service not available in other venues. Chuck Valliant noted that there was a great variety of activities represented during the meeting and that all those organizations supported continuance.
    - b. It also reached a larger audience than the TAP meetings that each of the services provides to retiring personnel., as support was also rendered to spouses and veterans as well.
    - c. The desire of the AAR group was to continue holding these events on a regular basis and to have the MAC continue its role in supporting them.
  4. The chairman reminded the committee that this event was one of the five target events identified by the Skunkworks committee in January. It fits our mission and has been identified by military leaders as a critical need of the military community.

## Hampton Military Affairs Committee

5. The chairman suggested that the Community Affairs subcommittee might want to become further involved in future "Transition-on-the-Go" events.
- D. Celebration of the Military Child. Great progress has been made through the Peninsula Town Center (PTC) and MAC partnership for a major "Celebration of the Military Child" from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at the PTC Town Square.
  1. Planning Sessions. Following the kick-off planning session in the Community Development Conference Room of City Hall on February 27<sup>th</sup>, there have been a number of follow-on sessions, including one on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  2. Report from Suzanne Higgs, Marketing Manager, PTC and Event Coordinator.
    - a. Event has grown beyond the original vision as far as size and scope. They are planning for 500 children.
      - 1 The location has expanded from the Town Square to the Breezeway and beyond. There are 15-20 confirmed participants. Setup begins at 0800.
      - 2 Confirmed participants include Operation Homefront, Armstrong Elementary School, USO of Hampton Roads & Central Virginia, Admirals Mascot, Boy Scouts, Troop 31, Navy Federal Credit Union, Movin 107.7, James River Army Recruiting Company, Hampton Parks & Recreation, Hampton Sheriff's Department, Military Bridge, First Command Financial Services, GEICO, Coliseum Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics.
      - 3 We also have confirmed participation by the Bethel High School Cheerleaders, the Tarrant Elementary School Honor Guard (using books instead of guns), the Heritage Brass Band, and more.
      - 4 Langley Speedway has donated 500 tickets.
    - b. Thanks to Tony Soltys for drafting the Mayor's proclamation making April the Month of the Military Child. Thanks to Andy Schwartz for doing the same at the state level. Governor McDonnell will be signing the proclamation soon.
    - c. The Event is being advertised by Clear Channel radio group and military newspapers.
    - d. Suzanne has requested that members of the MAC promote the event through their own channels.
  3. Peggy discussed the MAC table at the event.
    - a. Michelle has volunteered to update the MAC tri-fold which will be distributed at the event.
    - b. A children's activity. Peggy requested that suggestions be sent to her.
    - c. Manning for the table. Michelle also volunteered to work the table.

## Hampton Military Affairs Committee

- d. Five military service flags and the City of Hampton Flag. We already have the United States flag and the Commonwealth of Virginia flag.
- E. Movie and Mic Night. Michele Woods Jones, Executive Director, Citizens Unity Commission, has taken the lead in offering a "Movie and Mic Night" with the release of the motion picture "42," the story of an American Legend, baseball player Jackie Robinson. Beginning at 5 PM, Monday, April 15th, Hampton community leaders (including 13 people from the MAC or invited to accompany a MAC member) will attend with the intent to not only see the movie, but discuss matters of import suggested by the film.
  - 1. The chairman welcomed Michele Woods Jones to the meeting and she greeted the group with a brief talk about the CUC and its goals to foster inclusiveness in the Hampton Community. She noted that diversity applies to more than just racial differences, but to cultural differences such as the those between military and civilian cultures.
  - 2. Ms. Jones indicated that the Movie and Mic Night is a pilot project and that they anticipate other events, such as "Dining and Dialogue."
- F. MAC Webpage. Robin McCormick, Marketing INC, has made progress in developing a new webpage for the MAC, despite the absence of new input from our committee.
  - 1. We need to catch up with her and guide the effort.
  - 2. The webpage goes live on May 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be posting a group photo of the entire MAC and of the MAC Executive Council. We will also be posting the names and affiliations of the MAC members on the website, but will exclude personal information such as addresses and phone numbers.
- G. We have committed to serve as proponents of a spouse appreciation function sometime in the calendar year. Peggy Mertz is taking the lead on this event.
- H. Home Depot and the Vet Construction Project.
  - 1. Hal Roesch reported on the Home Depot and Vet Construction project. Home Depot is ready to proceed with a veterans' reconstruction or repair project.
  - 2. The sponsor will probably be the Vetshouse in Norfolk, VA although Home Depot is also seeking other 501(c) 3 organizations to sponsor future projects.
  - 3. The project has not yet been identified, but we are looking for something on the Peninsula. Projects should be a one or two days in duration.
  - 4. Home Depot will provide the materials, but not all the labor. Volunteer laborers will help to round out "Team Depot."
  - 5. Hal requested that any project suggestions be forwarded to him.

## Hampton Military Affairs Committee

### VI. New Business. City Staff Reports. Updates and Review.

A. Due to time constraints, committee reports were brief.

#### B. City Reports

1. No report from Jim Wilson.

2. Ann Bane announced “Jazz Night,” a Hampton City School initiative to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month on Tuesday, April 16, at 6:00 in the George P. Phenix cafeteria. More information will be forwarded by email.

#### C. Committee Reports

1. 9/11 Committee. Chuck Valliant, MAC Vice Chair, has agreed to lead this committee again.

2. Communications Committee. No report.

3. Veterans' Affairs Committee. Pete Fairchild chair. No report.

4. Community Affairs. Tony Soltys chair. No report.

5. Family Support. Peggy Mertz reported that they were still looking for additional members of the “pampering staff” for the upcoming Evening Under the Stars.

6. House Rules. John Pritchard chair. No report.

### VII. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM and followed by a tour of the museum.

Next Regular MAC Planning Session: 11 AM, Thursday, 9 May 2013  
Lawson Conference Room, 8th Floor, City Hall

Next MAC Meeting: 5 PM, Tuesday, 14 May 2013  
Veterans Conference Room, Ruppert Sargent Building, 1 Franklin St, Hampton